

Lancashire 320
1909

To the Public Health Committee of the Lancashire County Council.

Gentlemen,

The usual statistical return, which I now submit, shows that the death-rate for the Administrative County during the quarter ended December 31st last, corresponded to 13·2 per 1,000 of the population (urban 13·3, rural 12·0), as compared with a rate of 10·7 per 1,000 last quarter, and 14·4 in the corresponding quarter of last year. The death-rate is below any previously recorded for the fourth quarter. The epidemic death-rate (excluding diarrhoea) equalled 0·66, or 0·20 below the average for the December quarter of 1908. Respiratory diseases—including bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy—contributed a rate of 2·94—fractionally (0·05) higher than the rate of the corresponding period of last year. Scarlet fever and enteric fever increased in prevalence as compared with the previous quarter, but there was a slight reduction in the fatalities from measles.

I have to report that, after an absence of six months, small-pox has again appeared in the Administrative County, three districts being affected, namely, Standish-with-Langtree, Great Crosby, and Huyton-with-Roby.

Brief particulars of the cases are given below:—

	Number of Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Standish-with-Langtree	1...	—	Occurred in November.
Primary Vaccination...Under ten..	1		Removed to Cottage Hospital. Infection believed to have been contracted at rag and bone works.
" ..Over ..	0		
Great Crosby	2...	—	First case notified December 2nd, a seaman home 14 days; the second case notified December 30th, a painter who cleaned down the house. Both cases removed to the Liverpool Corporation Hospital at New Ferry.
Primary Vaccination...Under ten..	0		
" ..Over ..	2		
Huyton-with-Roby	1...	—	Case notified December 17th. On December 1st this patient sat with the seaman above referred to who was in bed with "a rash on his face," which had not then been diagnosed as small-pox. Removed to the Whiston Sanatorium.
Primary Vaccination...Under ten..	0		
" ..Over ..	1		

SPECIAL REPORTS.

In accordance with Article 18 (16) of the Local Government Board Order, 1891, relating to the duties of Medical Officers of Health, 45 reports have been received from the districts tabulated below. In addition, a special report has been supplied by the Medical Officer of Health of the Urban District of Preesall-with-Hackinsall with respect to the sewerage of the district (See text of report).

DISTRICT.	DATE OF REPORT.	DISEASE PREVALENT.	REMARKS OR ACTION TAKEN.
Preston (R.)..	1909 Oct. 1	Measles.. ..	Hill School, Goosnargh, closed from October 4th for 3 weeks; 54 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Do. ..	Oct. 11	Measles.. ..	Cottam Roman Catholic School closed from October 11th for 3 weeks; 58 per cent. of scholars attacked.



DISTRICT.	DATE OF REPORT.	DISEASE PREVALENT.	REMARKS OR ACTION TAKEN.
Horwich ..	1909 Oct. 4	Measles.. ..	National Infant School closed from October 4th for 3 weeks; 25 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Do. ..	Oct. 18	Measles.. ..	Infant department of Chorley New Road Council Schools closed from October 18th for 3 weeks; 22 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Do. ..	Nov. 26	Measles.. ..	Infant department of St. Catherine's School closed from November 26th for 3 weeks; 20 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Bacup (B.) ..	Oct. 4	Scarlet Fever ..	During the month of September 15 cases and 1 death from scarlet fever notified. The disease of a mild type, and sporadic in character appeared in many parts of the Borough; in more than one instance it was so mild that the cases were only diagnosed when in the peeling stage. Seven of the cases were under 5 years of age, 5 between 5 and 7 years, and 3 were 11 years and upwards.
Morecambe (B.) ..	Oct. 6	Whooping Cough	Closure of Infant department of West End Council Schools reported last quarter continued for a further period of 2 weeks from October 4th.
Great Crosby..	Oct. 7	Measles and Mumps	Infant department of St. Peter's and St. Paul's School closed from October 7th for 1 month; 35 per cent. of scholars absent.
Do. ..	Dec. 10	Measles.. ..	Infant department of Halsall Girls' School closed from December 10th for 2 weeks; 27 per cent. of scholars absent.
Haslingden (B.) ..	Oct. 11	Measles.. ..	Infant department of Manchester Road Wesleyan Schools, reported last quarter, continued for a further period of 2 weeks from October 11th; 25 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Do. ..	Nov. 3	Measles and Chicken Pox	Infant departments of the following schools closed from November 3rd to 22nd:—St. Mary's, Bury Road, 40 per cent. of scholars attacked; Bury Road British and the Church of England School, each 30 per cent. of scholars attacked. (Report November 22nd.) Closure of the two latter schools continued until December 6th. (Report November 12th) Closure of first-named school continued for a further period of 1 week.
Do. ..	Nov. 8	Measles.. ..	Ewood Bridge School closed from November 9th to 15th; 20 per cent. of scholars attacked. (Report November 15th) Closure continued until November 29th; 33 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Do. ..	Nov. 12	Measles.. ..	Mixed department of St. Mary's School, Bury Road, closed from November 15th to 29th; 18 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Ramsbottom ..	Oct. 13	Measles.. ..	Infant department of Peel Brow Council School closed from October 13th to 25th; 47 per cent. of scholars absent. (Reports October 25th and November 2nd) Closure continued until November 8th.
Bispham-with-Norbreck ..	Oct. 15	Scarlet Fever..	Closure of Bispham Endowed School, reported last quarter, continued for a further period of 2 weeks ending October 31st.
Lathom and Burscough.	Oct. 17	Scarlet Fever..	St. John's Schools, Burscough Bridge, closed from October 18th for 2 weeks; 5 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Do. ..	Dec. 10	Scarlet Fever and Sore Throat	Westhead Schools closed for a period of 1 month, including the Christmas holidays; 5 per cent. of scholars attacked with scarlet fever, and 26 per cent. absent on account of sore throat.

DISTRICT.	DATE OF REPORT.	DISEASE PREVALENT.	REMARKS OR ACTION TAKEN.
	1909		
Chorley (B.)..	Oct. 21	Measles.. ..	Infant departments of Chorley Parochial, Wesleyan, and Hollinshead Street Schools closed from October 1st to November 15th; 11, 15, and 12 per cent. respectively of scholars attacked.
Do. ..	Oct. 25	Measles.. ..	Infant department of St. Mary's School closed from October 25th to November 15th; 26 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Fylde (R.) ..	Nov. 3	Scarlet Fever ..	Newton-with-Scales School closed from November 3rd for 2 weeks; 39 per cent. of scholars absent. (Report November 17th.) Closure continued for a further period of 2 weeks.
Do. ..	Nov. 15	Scarlet Fever *	Wrea Green School closed from November 15th for 2 weeks; 7 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Do. ..	Dec. 1	Scarlet Fever ..	Esprick School closed from November 29th for 2 weeks; 40 per cent. of scholars absent. (Report December 12.) Closure continued for a further period of 2 weeks.
Littleborough.	Nov. 8	Measles.. ..	St. Mary's Roman Catholic School closed from November 8th for a period of 3 weeks; 36 per cent. of scholars absent.
Do. ..	Nov. 10	Measles.. ..	Infant department of Central Council and Parish Church Schools closed from November 10th for 3 weeks.
Do. ..	Nov. 16	Measles.. ..	Infant department of Shore Council School closed from November 16th for 3 weeks; 32 per cent. of scholars attacked.
West Lancashire (R.)..	Nov. 11	Measles.. ..	Aughton Roman Catholic School, Melling, closed from October 18th to November 8th. Closure subsequently continued until November 15th; 86 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Radcliffe ..	Nov. 12	Scarlet Fever ..	St. Mary's School closed for 5 days to allow of disinfection and cleansing. Two children discovered attending school in desquamating stage.
Waterloo-with-Seaforth	Nov. 12	Measles.. ..	Infant department of St. Nicholas' School, Waterloo, closed from November 12th for 1 month; 34 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Warrington (R.)..	Nov. 15	Measles.. ..	Owing to the prevalence of measles at Penketh, exclusion from school of children residing at infected houses resorted to.
Do. ..	1910 Jan. 10	Measles.. ..	Infant department of Penketh Council School closed from December 12th until commencement of Christmas holidays; 61 per cent. of scholars absent.
	1909 Nov. 22		
Burnley (R.)..	Nov. 22	Measles.. ..	Infant department of Wesleyan School, Wheatley Lane, closed from November 22nd for 14 days; 62 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Do. ..	Dec. 8	Measles.. ..	Roughlee School closed; Infant department from December 6th and Mixed department from December 8th until commencement of Christmas holidays; 50 and 30 per cent. respectively of scholars attacked.
Prestwich ..	Dec. 7	Scarlet Fever ..	Prestwich Wesleyan School closed until commencement of Christmas holidays.
Hindley ..	Dec. 8	Measles.. ..	Infant department of Argyle Street Council School closed from December 8th for 2 weeks; 23 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Upholland ..	Dec. 10	Scarlet Fever ..	Digmoor School closed from December 13th for 2 weeks; 6 per cent. of scholars absent. (Report December 31st.) Closure continued for a further period of 2 weeks; 5 per cent. of scholars attacked.
Barton-upon-Irwell (R.)..	Dec. 15	Scarlet Fever ..	St. Mary's Day and Sunday Schools, Davyhulme, closed from December 15th until after Christmas holidays; 11 per cent. of scholars attacked.

DISTRICT.	DATE OF REPORT.	DISEASE PREVALENT.	REMARKS OR ACTION TAKEN.
	1909		
Newton-in-Makerfield..	Dec. 16	Influenza ..	St. Peter's Infant School closed until after Christmas holidays; 39 per cent. of scholars absent.
Prescot ..	Dec. 20	Scarlet Fever ..	Report refers to prevalence of scarlet fever—May to November. Cases notified during this period amounted to 107, with 6 deaths; 78 cases and 3 deaths occurred during October and November. On consultation with the District School Medical Officer it was decided not to recommend school closure, but children from infected houses were excluded, and other precautionary measures adopted.

SEWERAGE OF PREESALL-WITH-HACKINSALL.

The Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Robinson) has forwarded copy of Special Report sent to the Local Government Board on "the present system of sewerage and sewage disposal" of his district. The sewerage of the village of Knott End still discharges partly into the River Wyre and partly on to the sands on the north side; the latter sewer has been extended about 100 yards, but still discharges on to flat sands. The volume of sewage has considerably increased owing to the erection of water-closets since the Fylde water was laid on. The septic tank at Knott End discharges into a covered ditch, which empties on to the sands to the north-east. The sewerage of the village of Preesall remains in practically the same state as in 1904, when a Local Government Board Inspector visited the district, and *inter alia* severely criticised the sewerage system. Dr. Robinson states that "a system of sewerage and sewage disposal is urgently needed," especially as a large number of Territorial troops encamp in the district.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The visits of inspection made for sanitary purposes during the past quarter include the following:—Low Bentham (Lunesdale R.), with respect to nuisance caused by sewage from a portion of the Settle Rural District (Yorkshire); Poulton-le-Fylde, insanitary property; Hambleton (Garstang R.), sewerage scheme recently carried out; Catterall and Swarbrick's brewery, near Poulton-le-Fylde, treatment of waste-water; Newton-in-Makerfield, proposed isolation hospital; Ashton-in-Makerfield, pollution of Millingford Brook; and Prescot, insanitary property. The isolation hospitals at Birkdale, Fulwood, and Walton-le-Dale, and the sewage works of Golborne, Haydock, Newton-in-Makerfield, and Prescot, have also been visited. Detailed reports on each of these matters will be laid before you.

PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION, 1909.

The Housing, Town-planning, &c., Act, which was passed in the recent session of Parliament, gives most important powers and duties to county councils and urban and rural district councils. Section 1, Part III., of the principal Act (Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890), which, when adopted, enables local authorities to provide new houses for the working classes, is to take effect in all districts without adoption. Under Section 10 (3), where an order originally made under this Section on the council of a county district is not complied with, the Local Government Board are empowered, if they think fit, with the consent of the county council, instead of enforcing that order against the council of the county district to make an order directing the county council to carry out any works or to do any other things which are mentioned in the original order for the purpose of remedying the default of the District Council.

Powers of County Council to Act in Default of Rural District Council Under Part III. of the Principal Act.

Section 12 of the new Act supersedes Section 6 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1900, which gave power to a county council to act in default of a rural district council, under Part III. of the principal Act in certain circumstances.

Under the latter section, which is now repealed, a county council could be set in motion only by a resolution of a parish council. Under section 12 of the new Act the county council can act upon complaint made to them by the parish council or parish meeting of any parish comprised in any rural district in the county or by four inhabitant householders of that district. Upon receiving any such complaint they may proceed to cause a public local inquiry to be held. If, after holding this inquiry, the county council are satisfied that the rural district council have failed to exercise their powers under Part III. of the principal Act, in cases where those powers ought to have been exercised, they may resolve that the powers of the district council for the purposes of that part be transferred to the county council not merely, as hitherto, with respect to a parish in the district, but, if they so resolve, with respect to the whole district, and those powers will be transferred accordingly. Subject to the provisions of the new Act, section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1894, will apply as if the powers had been transferred under that Act.

Power of County Council to Exercise Powers of Rural District Council under Part III. of the Principal Act.

Section 13 of the new Act enables a county council, where they are of opinion that for any reason it is expedient that they should exercise, as respects any rural district in the county, any of the powers of a local authority under Part III. of the principal Act, after giving notice to the council of the district of their intention to do so, to apply to the Board for an Order conferring such powers on them (sub-section 1). The Board are empowered, upon such an application being made to them to make an Order conferring upon the county council as respects the rural district all or any of the powers of a local authority under Part III. of the principal Act, and thereupon the provisions of the Housing Acts relating to those powers will apply as if the county council were a local authority under Part III. of the principal Act. The expenses incurred by the county council under any such Order are to be defrayed as expenses for general county purposes (sub-section 2).

County Medical Officers.

By section 68 (1) and (2) of the new Act it is now obligatory upon every county council to appoint a Medical Officer of Health, whose duties shall be such "as may be prescribed by general Order of the Local Government Board and such other duties as may be assigned to him by the county council." (3) Power of county and district councils to make arrangements as to Medical Officers of Health to cease without prejudice to any arrangement already made. (4) Confers on the Medical Officer of Health of a county for the purpose of his duties, the same powers of entry on premises as are conferred on a Medical Officer of Health of a district by or under any enactment. (5) Provides that a Medical Officer of Health of a county shall be removable by a county council with the consent of the Board, but not otherwise. He is not to be appointed for a limited period only, not to engage in private practice, and not to hold any other public appointment without the consent of the Local Government Board.

Duty of Clerk and Medical Officer of Health of District Council to furnish information to Medical Officer of Health of County Council.

Under Section 45 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, a rural district council are required to forward forthwith to the county council a copy of any representation, complaint, or information, made or given by the medical officer of health or any inhabitant householders to them, or to their medical officer of health, respecting any dwelling house being unfit for human habitation, or respecting an obstructive building.

Section 69 of the new Act makes it the personal duty of the clerk of a rural district council to forward to the medical officer of health of the county a copy of any such representation, complaint, or information (sub-section 1). The same section also imposes

upon the medical officer of health of any district the duty of giving to the medical officer of health of the county any information which it is in his power to give, and which the county medical officer of health may reasonably require from him for the purpose of his duties prescribed by the Board (sub-section 2).

Any dispute which may arise between the clerk or the medical officer of health of a district council and the medical officer of health of the county under the section is required by sub-section 3 to be referred to and determined by the Board, and sub-section 4 will render the clerk or medical officer of health of a district who fails to comply with the provisions above referred to liable on summary conviction, upon information laid by the county council, but not otherwise, to a fine not exceeding £10.

*Public Health and Housing Committee of
County Council.*

By section 71 (1) a county council are required to establish a public health and housing committee, to whom all matters relating to the exercise and performance by the council of their powers and duties as respects public health and the housing of the working classes are to stand referred, and the council, before exercising any such powers must, unless in their opinion the matter is urgent, receive and consider the report of this committee with respect to the matter in question. The council are also empowered to delegate to this committee, with or without restrictions or conditions, as they think fit, any of their powers as respects public health or the housing of the working classes, except the power of (1) raising a rate, or (2) borrowing money, or (3) resolving that the powers of a district council in default should be transferred to the county council.

The county council should appoint a committee under the section as soon as practicable.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

URBAN DISTRICTS OF TYLDESLEY-WITH-SHAKERLEY
AND ATHERTON.

At your last meeting you adjourned consideration, for three months, of the application from the barbers of the Urban Districts of Tyldesley-with-Shakerley and Atherton, for the revocation of the Orders now in force in the whole of the former district and part of the latter, and the substitution therefor of a new Order applying to the whole of both districts with altered hours of closing. Consideration of the application of the butchers of Tyldesley for an Order applying to their shops was also adjourned.

Particulars as to the proposed hours of closing, &c., were given in last quarter's report.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875-1907.

Appended to this Report is the usual tabular statement of the prosecutions under the Food and Drugs Acts during the three months, and I also lay before you a list of 782 samples purchased during the quarter.

You will observe that five cases of adulteration have appeared before the Petty Sessional Courts, due to the admixture with commercial margarine of mineral oil somewhat resembling vaseline. This material is certified by the Public Analyst to be a hydrocarbon of the paraffin series and not of the nature of a true oil or fat. Taken into the body it is incapable of digestion, and remains unchanged until it is thrown off by the excretory organs. The proportion of adulterant used averaged about 5 per cent. per sample, and its introduction the defendant claimed to be necessary "on account of climatic conditions." You will be pleased to know that the discontinuance of this new form of adulteration has been secured, and an undertaking entered into that it will not be again repeated.

During the year just ended 3,073 samples were purchased in the various police divisions and submitted to the County Analyst, viz. :—

Police Division.	No. of Samples.	Police Division.	No. of Samples.
Lonsdale North ...	89	Rochdale ...	239
Lonsdale South ...	70	Ashton-under-Lyne ...	167
Garstang ...	67	Manchester ...	380
Kirkham ...	85	Seaforth ...	99
Blackburn Lower ...	96	Ormskirk ...	108
Blackburn Higher ...	193	Prescot... ...	77
Rossendale ...	109	Widnes ...	90
Church... ...	108	Warrington ...	207
Leyland ...	110	Wigan ...	224
Bolton ...	201	Inspector Parkinson ...	171
Bury ...	183		
			<hr/> 3073

Yours obediently,

EDWARD SERGEANT,

County Medical Officer of Health.

County Offices, Preston,
20th January, 1910.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875-1907.

PROSECUTIONS DURING THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1909.

Court and Date of Prosecution.	Nature of Sample.	Nature of Adulterant or Offence.	Name and Address of Vendor.	Result of Prosecution.
Chadderton, 27th October 1909.	Whisky	34 degrees under proof; 9 below statutory limit	Harriett Taylor, Horton Arms, Buckley Wood, Chadderton	20s. and costs
Chadderton, 27th October	Rum	32 degrees under proof; 7 below statutory limit	Hannah Bell, Old Engine Inn, Bridge Street, Royton	20s. and costs
Islington, 29th October	Butter	Not less than 35 per cent. of fats other than butter	Thomas Hayes, 97, Webster Street, Litherland	£5 and costs
Haslingden, 1st November	Golden syrup	Not less than 70 per cent. of liquid glucose (starch sugar)	Fred. Catlow, 290, Blackburn Road, Haslingden	20s. and costs
Royton, 3rd November	Rum	29.5 degrees under proof; 4.5 below statutory limit	John T. Dronsfield, Slaters' Arms, Buckstones Road, Crompton	20s. and costs
Royton, 3rd November	Whisky	34 degrees under proof; 9 below statutory limit	John T. Dronsfield, Slaters' Arms, Buckstones Road, Crompton	20s. and costs
Royton, 3rd November	Whisky	29.5 degrees under proof; 4.5 below statutory limit	George Bracewell, Bull's Head Inn, Grains Bar Crompton	20s. and costs
Royton, 3rd November	Rum	30.5 degrees under proof; 5.5 below statutory limit	George Bracewell, Bull's Head Inn, Grains Bar Crompton	20s. and costs
Islington, 12th November	Margarine	Non-compliance with Sec. 6, Margarine Act, 1887 (no label)	D. & W. Costigan, 189, Linacre Road, Litherland	10s. and costs
Royton, 17th November	Margarine	6.54 per cent. of mineral grease	James Kenworthy, 14, Grains Bar, Crompton	20s. and costs
Royton, 17th November	Margarine	Non-compliance with Sec. 6, Margarine Act, 1887 (no label)	James Kenworthy, 14, Grains Bar, Crompton	10s. and costs
Royton, 17th November	Margarine	Non-compliance with Sec. 6 (2) Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1899 (wrapper)	James Kenworthy, 14, Grains Bar, Crompton	5s. and costs
Royton, 17th November	Skimmed milk	Added water (17 per cent.)	T. Holdsworth, Woodbrow Farm, Denshaw, Yorks.	20s. and costs
Royton, 17th November	Milk	Added water (5 per cent.)	T. Holdsworth, Woodbrow Farm, Denshaw, Yorks.	To pay costs
Eccles, 22nd November	Milk	Deficient in milk fat	Alfred W. Wells, 355, Trafford Road, Patricroft	5s. and costs
Royton, 1st December	Margarine	5.14 per cent. of mineral oil	Thomas Jones, Sandy Lane, Royton	20s. and costs
Church, 2nd December	Margarine	Non-compliance with Sec. 6, Margarine Act, 1887 (no label)	John R. Schofield, 216b, Union Road, Oswaldtwistle	To pay costs. Employer summoned Manager under Sec. 5, Margarine Act, 1887, and obtained a penalty of 20s. and costs

Court and Date of Prosecution.	Nature of Sample.	Nature of Adulterant or Offence.	Name and Address of Vendor.	Result of Prosecution.
Ormskirk, 3rd December 1909.	Margarine	4.50 per cent. of mineral oil	James A. Williams, Burscough Street, Ormskirk	10s. and costs
Ormskirk, 3rd December	Margarine	4.15 per cent. of mineral oil	Skelmersdale Co-operative Society, Burscough Street, Ormskirk	10s. and costs
Haslingden, 13th December	.....	Refusal to sell (Margarine)	Ellen Entwistle, 14, High Street, Haslingden	Dismissed. Magistrates held that the article was "not exposed for sale"
Colne, 15th December	Milk	Added water (5 per cent.)	William Whalley, Accornlea Farm, Foulridge	£3 and costs
Middleton, 16th December	Margarine	Non-compliance with Sec. 6, Margarine Act, 1887 (no label)	David Chadwick, 13 & 15, Chapel St., Rhodes, Middleton	1s. and costs
Strangeways, 21st Dec.	Margarine	4.24 per cent. of mineral oil	Arthur Haydock (trading as the City Tea Co.), Oldham Road, Failsworth	Withdrawn on the manufacturers giving an undertaking that they would cease to use mineral oil in the manufacture of margarine, and paying the costs of this case, and £5 5s. special costs

SUMMARY OF PROSECUTIONS.

				Legal Proceedings.	Convictions or to pay costs.	Withdrawn on payment of costs.	Dismissed on production of Warranty.	Dismissed for other reasons	Amount of Fines (exclusive of costs).
Quarter ended :									£ s. d.
1909.									
March 31st...	...	...	...	14	6	2	4	2	3 10 0
June 30th ...	...	...	...	21	20	1	..	...	23 17 0
September 30th	...	...	...	11	11	...	...	...	12 3 6
December 31st	...	..	...	23	21	1	...	1	20 11 0
				69	58	4	4	3	60 1 6

To the Chairman and Members of the Midwives Act Committee.

Gentlemen,

During the quarter ended December 31st last, 6 certified midwives, whose names were not previously on the County Register, have—in compliance with Section 10 of the Midwives Act, 1902—apprised me, in writing, of their intention to practise in the Administrative County; 1 midwife who had previously intimated that she had ceased to act has re-commenced; 1 who had removed to a district outside our area has returned; 4 midwives have removed to districts not under our jurisdiction or to addresses unknown, and 1 County Borough midwife has ceased to practise in the County; 3 have died, and by the absorption of the Urban Districts of Gorton and Levenshulme in November last by the City of Manchester, 13 midwives have been removed from the County Register. The changes above enumerated leave on the County Register, at the end of the quarter, 958 midwives, whose qualifications are as under :—

Obstetrical Society of London	...	...	...	71
Coombe Lying-in Hospital and Guinness's Dispensary	...	...	...	2
Rotunda Hospital, Dublin	...	...	...	1
Liverpool Ladies' Charity and Lying-in Hospital..	...	...	...	37
St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester...	...	...	...	59
Certificate (by Examination) of Central Midwives Board	...	...	...	83
In <i>bonâ-fide</i> practice, July, 1901	...	...	...	705
Total...	...	...	...	958

Of this number, 844 have intimated that they are practising, and 114 have temporarily, for a variety of reasons, ceased to act as midwives.

During the present month I have to supply to the Secretary of the Central Midwives Board, in compliance with Section 8 (5) of the Midwives Act, a list of the names and addresses of all midwives who, during the year just ended, have notified their intention to practise within the County area.

Under Section 10 of the Act it is the duty of every certified woman, holding herself out as a practising midwife, to give notice, in writing, during the month of January, to the Local Supervising Authority of the district in which she practises. Failure to comply with this requirement renders the midwife liable to a penalty. So far, about 500 midwives have acquainted me of their intention to continue in practice in 1910, but no doubt, as in previous years, some 200-300 will delay the performance of this duty.

Under Section E (18) of the Rules of the Central Midwives Board, the following notifications have been received and tabulated for reference :—

	Quarter ended 31st Dec., 1909.	Corresponding quarter, 1908.
Records of sending for medical help	412	331
Still-births	M. 71 F. 65 Not differentiated 1	70 57 1
Deaths of mother or child before the attendance of a medical practitioner	Mother — Child 14	2 18
	14	20

The following tabular statement analyses the causes for which midwives had occasion to advise, under Rules 18 and 19, during the current and the preceding quarters, that medical assistance be obtained :—

	Quarter ended Dec. 31st, 1909.	Previous Quarter.
PREGNANCY.		
Abortions, miscarriages	17	16
Deformed pelvis	—	—
Loss of blood...	—	1
Other abnormalities or complications	—	3

LABOUR.

Unusual presentations	...	...	...	61	...	48
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	5	...	6
Post-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	6	...	5
Retained placenta or membranes	...	...	...	18	...	13
Adherent placenta	...	...	...	19	...	13
Ruptured perinæum	...	...	...	34	...	46
Obstructed labour, uterine inertia, or requiring instrumental assistance	...	...	...	149	...	170
Convulsions	...	...	...	4	...	2
Premature labour	...	...	...	3	...	12
Other complications	...	...	...	5	...	11

LYING-IN.

Abdominal swellings	...	...	...	—	...	2
Offensive lochia	...	...	...	—	...	—
Rigor	...	...	...	1	...	—
Rise of temperature above 100·4° F.	...	...	...	10	...	14
Unusual swelling of breasts	...	...	...	—	...	1
Secondary post-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	—	...	—
White leg	...	...	...	1	...	2
Unsatisfactory progress or other com- plications	...	...	...	17	...	25

NEWLY BORN CHILD.

Injuries received during birth	...	...	...	—	...	—
Malformations or deformities	...	...	...	8	...	2
Dangerous feebleness	...	...	...	34	...	10
Inflammation of eyes or eyelids	...	...	...	7	...	6
Serious skin eruptions	...	...	...	—	...	—
Inflammation about the umbilicus	...	...	...	—	...	—
Other complications	...	...	...	13	...	4

Total... 412 ... 412

The usual investigations have been made into all cases of puerperal fever coming to my knowledge during the quarter, brief particulars of which are given below:—

	Quarter ended Dec. 31st, 1900.		Previous Quarter.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Reported by Certified Midwives	8	4	9	3
Information obtained from Monthly Returns or other sources	12	*†10	32	17
	20	*†14	41	20
Attended by Certified Midwives who reported cases accord- ing to Rule (including those cases where midwives had forwarded copy of Record of sending for medical help, and including 1 case where Record was not received until case diagnosed as puerperal fever)	6	2	9	3
Attended by Certified Midwives who did not notify or for- ward copy of Record of sending for medical help (In 1 case the midwife had ceased attending before abnormal symptoms were recognised, and in 1 case the Doctor was called in by patient's friends between the midwife's visits)	5	3	10	3
Attended by Certified Midwives acting as Nurses under Medical Practitioners	3	*3	4	1
Attended by Medical Prac- titioners.—No midwife in attendance	6	†6	14	11
Attended by Uncertified Mid- wives	...	...	4	2
	20	*†14	41	20

*Including 1 death of case reported last quarter.

† „ 3 deaths of cases not notified as puerperal fever.

The number of cases of puerperal fever notified during the quarter is the lowest since the Midwives Act came into operation, but the percentage of deaths to cases is high, viz., 50·0, against a percentage of 40·0 in the preceding quarter, 29·7 in the June quarter, and 34·8 in the March quarter. Last year in the December quarter there were 42 cases with 15 deaths, and in the September quarter 24 cases and 13 deaths.

In only 5 instances did midwives fail to comply with the rules as regards notification to the Local Supervising Authority of having to advise medical assistance in cases which subsequently developed into puerperal fever. In one case the doctor was called in by the patient's friends after the midwife had ceased to attend, and in another, medical help was sent for between the midwife's visits.

The charges of negligence or carelessness against midwives, arising out of puerperal fever cases, are not of a very serious character this quarter.

Full particulars of all the cases occurring during the quarter under report will be submitted to you, together with the correspondence, Inspectors' reports, &c., on each case, and also details as to the action taken regarding disinfection, suspensions, &c.

Charges of negligence, malpractice, or misconduct have been preferred against 6 women, two for failing to advise medical assistance in cases of abortion (Rule 18), one failure to forward copy of record of sending for medical help (Rule 20 (1)), one laying out the dead (Rule 16), and two contraventions of Section 1 (1) of the Act by women who have been struck off the Roll by the Central Midwives Board.

Enquiries have been made into 7 cases concerning babies' eyes which were inflammatory, swollen, or discharging. No blame was attached to the midwives in attendance.

I have had occasion to draw the attention of a number of midwives to the fact that they have reported as "still-births," abortions or miscarriages, and I have taken the opportunity of impressing upon them the necessity of calling in medical assistance in such cases.

Other matters which have received attention during the period under report include—case of erysipelas in midwife's practice, cases of scarlet fever and whooping cough in midwife's house, two cases of enteric fever in house at which midwife was in attendance, and a midwife nursing patient suffering from enteric fever. In each case directions were given as to the necessary precautionary measures, and these were carried out before the midwife was allowed to resume her work.

As required by Section 8 (6) of the Act, the Central Midwives Board is kept acquainted with changes of name and address, and deaths of midwives, so that the necessary alterations may be made in the Official Roll. The following changes have been notified :—

			Quarter ended 31st Dec., 1909.	Corresponding quarter, 1908.
Changes of Address	..	..	25	19
Changes of Name	..	..	3	2
Deaths of Midwives	..	..	3	3

The following table shows the number of Records, &c., received during the year just ended compared with the four preceding years* :—

	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Records of sending for medical help	428	875	1009	1543	1644
Notices of still-births	238	482	559	657	617
Notices of death of child before the attendance of doctor..	14	66	57	76	53
Notices of death of mother before the attendance of doctor	6	12	..	8	6
Notifications to the Central Midwives Board :—					
Changes of address	153	172	166	255	164
Changes of name	3	1	13	7	11
Deaths of midwives..	16	19	15	25	20

*The increase in the number of records received is doubtless due to a large extent to the increased efficiency of inspection and to the midwives realising more fully their obligations.

The application for the restoration to the Roll of the name of a midwife (A.H.), who was struck off at your instigation, has been refused by the Central Midwives Board.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The Secretary of the Central Midwives Board has forwarded to me copy of leaflet on the above subject prepared by the Chairman at the request of the Board, and offers to supply copies for distribution to the midwives under your jurisdiction. The subject matter is as follows :—

“ Ophthalmia Neonatorum is a very common cause of *hopeless blindness*, which is one of the greatest misfortunes that can happen to a child. A very large number of children will be saved from blindness if the following directions of the Central Midwives Board are observed.

The disease generally arises from purulent discharges from the mother getting into the baby’s eyes at birth.

It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that this should be prevented :—

1. By curing such discharges if possible before labour.
This requires medical treatment (Rule E. 19 (2) & (3)).
2. By taking the greatest care that such discharges shall not be carried into the baby’s eyes when it opens them for the first time soon after its head is born.

The discharges may be carried into the baby’s eyes in the following ways :—

- (a) The discharges collect round its eyes, especially the eyelashes, and easily get into its eyes.

This can be generally prevented if the midwife observes Rule E. 14 : “ As soon as the child’s head is born, and if possible before the eyes are opened, its eyelids must be carefully cleansed.” They should be thoroughly wiped with clean material such as cotton-wool, lint, or rag, using separate pieces for each eye. The reason for this is that the piece used for wiping the first eye will be polluted by the discharges, and should not be used for the other eye.

- (b) Newborn babies sometimes rub their eyes with their hands. This may rub the discharges into their eyes. When Rule E. 14 has been complied with the baby’s hands must be carefully cleansed.

- (c) When the baby is bathed the discharges with which its body is covered during labour are washed off into the bath-water. If its face is washed in this water, matter may get into the eyes.

N.B.—The above directions are to be observed in all cases, whether purulent discharges are known to be present or not.”

Midwives Act, Section 1 (2).

On the 1st of April next, Section 1, sub-section (2) of the Midwives Act comes into operation, and this is to the following effect :—

From and after the 1st day of April, 1910, no woman shall habitually and for gain attend women in child-birth otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner, unless she be certified under this Act; any woman so acting without being certified under this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds, provided this section shall not apply to legally qualified medical practitioners, or to anyone rendering assistance in a case of emergency.

Efforts have been made to obtain information as to those women, who, not being certified, are still attending confinements, and, although the lists are not yet complete, it has been ascertained that a considerable number of women are engaged in more or less active practice, although they are not certified under the Act. Further details as to the districts in which these women reside will be laid before you. Owing to the amount of trouble taken at the time the Act was first put into operation a large majority of the women practising midwifery became certified, and it is not anticipated that serious difficulty will arise when the uncertified women are compelled to cease to practice except under the direction of a medical practitioner.

The following is a list of districts visited by the Inspectors during the quarter under report :—

Miss Wright visited 56 districts, viz., Stretford, Lancaster (R.), Eccles (B.), Rawtenstall (B.), Barton-upon-Irwell (R.), Chadderton, Padiham, Morecambe (B.), Heysham, Mossley (B.), Bacup (B.), Lancaster (B.), Lunesdale (R.), Denton, Norden, Bury (R.), Irlam, Worsley, Swinton and Pendlebury, Heaton Norris, Audenshaw, Ashton-under-Lyne (B.), Milnrow, Whitefield, Turton, Droylsden, Clayton-le-Moors, Failsworth, Heywood (B.), Lees, Tottington, Ramsbottom, Haslingden (B.), Hurst, Little Lever, Accrington (B.), Colne (B.), Littleborough, Brierfield, Wardle, Burnley (R.), Middleton (B.), Nelson (B.), Oswaldtwistle, Little Hulton, Clitheroe (B.), Great Harwood, Levenshulme, Gorton, Blackburn (R.), Rishton, Prestwich, Darwen (B.), Radcliffe, Kearsley, and Farnworth.

In these districts calls were made at the homes of 385 midwives, 313 were interviewed, 66 were not at home, 4 had removed, and 2 had died.

Miss Ashton visited the following 45 districts :—Lathom and Burscough, Huyton-with-Roby, Warrington (R.), Leyland, Sefton (R.), Walton-le-Dale, Preston (R.), Tyldesley-with-Shakerley, Much Woolton, Little Woolton, Upholland, Wigan (R.), Kirkham, Fylde (R.), Rainford, Skelmersdale, Chorley (B.), Golborne, Leigh (R.), Ashton-in-Makerfield, Prescott, Atherton, Newton-in-Makerfield, Orrell, Billinge, Thornton, Waterloo-with-Seaforth, Lytham, Aspull, St. Annes-on-the-Sea, Fleetwood, Haydock, Abram, Whiston (R.), Chorley (R.), Horwich, Westhoughton, West Lancashire (R.) (part), Blackrod, Formby, Great Crosby, Leigh (B.), Widnes (B.), Hindley (part), and Ince-in-Makerfield (part).

Visits to the midwives' homes numbered 340; 295 midwives were interviewed, 45 were not at home.

From the Inspectors' reports it is evident that the midwives continue to improve, and show increasing care in their methods of work. Many do their best to conform to the rules, but it is impossible to teach some to read a thermometer satisfactorily, and they do not realize the importance of taking the temperature daily. Some are hopelessly careless, but as a rule these do very little work. Greater attention is given to babies' eyes, and medical help is advised in cases which formerly were treated indifferently. The midwives generally see that women expecting to be confined

now make provision as regards bedding and clothing. As regards miscarriages, midwives are as a rule willing to call in medical assistance, but the patients often think nothing of the matter, and refuse to send for the doctor. A number of midwives have expressed the hope that after April next the uncertified woman will not be allowed to practice except under medical supervision.

The Inspectors have made reports on all cases of puerperal fever occurring in the practice of midwives, and investigated a number of charges of negligence and misconduct. These will be laid before you, and also the results of their enquiries into cases of inflammation of babies' eyes.

The usual tabular statement is appended, showing the number of certified midwives in each of the County Districts.

Yours obediently,

EDWARD SERGEANT,

Medical Officer to the Midwives Act Committee.

County Offices, Preston,
20th January, 1910.

